

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. Claims Status

Claims 1-13 have been canceled herein and claims 14-25 are presented for further prosecution.

Claim 14 is a combination of claims 1, 2, and 3 while claim 15 mirrors claim 6, claim 16 claim mirrors 7, claim 18 mirrors claim 8, claim 19 mirrors claim 9, claim 20 mirrors claim 10, claims 21 and 22 mirror claim 11, claims 23 and 24 mirror claim 12, and claim 25 mirrors claim 13. Claim 17 is supported by Fig. 9.

No new matter has been added by way of these new claims.

C. Claim rejection under 31 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-12 had been objected to as being indefinite. As noted above, these claims have been canceled and new claims 14-25 are presented herein. It is deemed that the new claims are not plagued by the comments made by the Examiner to claims 1-12.

D. Prior art rejection

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 had been rejected as being anticipated by Fischer; claims 1, 8, and 10 had been rejected as being anticipated by Kugler; and claims 7 and 9 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Kugler.

As noted, claims 1-13 have been canceled herein and claims 14-25 are presented for further prosecution.

One of the unique aspects of the present invention is the fact that a slot, which extends from one side of the component through to the other side of the component, is used for the measurement. The slot, being rectangular in nature, has edges which tend to deform when the component is subject to a transverse force. Light which is shined onto the one side of the component passes through the slot and

exits the slot on the other side of the component. Deformation caused to the edge of the slot allows more or less light to pass through the slot. These changes in light are received and detected by a sensor which receives the light on the other side of the component. Respectfully, such is neither taught nor suggested by the two cited references.

First, turning to Kugler, it will be noted that Kugler has light that passes over an outside edge, and thus not through a slot in the component.

With respect to Fischer, Fischer's device employs a bore, not a slot. Second, Fischer's device is intended to test for axial pressure. Fischer specifically teaches that it is solely the result of axial pressure that closes the bore, see col. 2, line 56. In contrast, the present invention measures forces which are transverse to the slot. It is respectfully submitted that because of the different forces that are intended to be measured by Fischer, one of skill in the art would not apply Fischer's device to a component such as a linear bearing or a rotor. Respectfully, the claims presented herein are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.

E. Conclusion

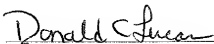
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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